

## BELGIAN ARMY FORCES BACK GERMAN LINES

Carry Position on Kloosterhook Farm and Hold Ground Gained.

## COUNTER ATTACKS ON FRENCH FUTURE

### SUMMARY OF THE WAR NEWS.

The French War Office announces that the Champagne campaign is proceeding successfully and that all gains have been consolidated while the main German counter attacks have been repulsed.

It is reported from Pekin that the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain and Russia have informed Japan that if she does not adhere to her original demands on China they will be unable to continue diplomatic interchanges with her.

The Anglo-French fleet is reported to have cleared the Dardanelles of mines for a distance of twelve miles. The ships are now bombarding Kanak, where a landing party destroyed torpedo stations. The damage to the British cruiser Amethyst is confirmed.

The Russians report a considerable victory in the Carpathians and say fighting continues on a front of 600 miles, although the Germans have been forced to send many troops to the western theatre and are unable to prosecute a vigorous offensive.

The German War Office announces that the Kaiser's troops have carried a disputed position on the Lorette Heights near Arras, are holding the French in Champagne and are pushing back the Russians in northern Poland.

A despatch from Italy says that the Austrian Embassy is sending to Vienna confidential archives which would not be safe in Rome if Italy and Austria went to war. The situation is becoming graver. It is believed the German-Italian negotiations are on the point of failure.

## GERMANS DRIVEN BACK IN BELGIUM

Belgian Forces Make Progress Toward Stuyvenkerke.

### Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

Paris, March 17.—The War Office announced tonight that the French troops are consolidated and maintained the position in the Champagne region and that the Germans have been unable to recapture any of the ground they lost. The fighting continues violently, particularly north of Namur, where French reinforcements are pushing the Germans back.

The roads on the Yser are subsiding and the Belgian troops have been enabled to make new progress toward Stuyvenkerke, where they have carried a position on the Kloosterhook farm. They have also progressed considerably on the road from Perwez to Seneffe.

The Germans have again bombarded Stuyvenkerke with 12 centimeter howitzers and the British battalions have continued to make progress in the effort to silence the enemy's batteries.

On the British front there has been a quiet artillery exchange and near Stuyvenkerke the French have been enabled to capture a position on the Kloosterhook farm. They have also progressed considerably on the road from Perwez to Seneffe.

On the Yser the Belgian army has made fresh progress and has repulsed German counter attacks. On the British front there has been a quiet artillery exchange and near Stuyvenkerke the French have been enabled to capture a position on the Kloosterhook farm. They have also progressed considerably on the road from Perwez to Seneffe.

To the north of Arras the enemy has been unable to deliver another counter attack on the front of the British. The fighting continues violently, particularly north of Namur, where French reinforcements are pushing the Germans back.

Seasons and Rhine again were bombarded, and shells striking the Rhine at Cologne.

In the Champagne, north of Le Mans and west of Hill 196, we have seen a serious attack from a front of some 100 miles. The enemy's attack was repulsed by the French.

In the Argonne several German counter attacks have been repulsed. The fighting continues violently, particularly north of Namur, where French reinforcements are pushing the Germans back.

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## NEW RUSSIAN TREATY IGNORE PASSPORTS

Jewish Question Will Not Be Considered in Trade Pact Destined to Grab Business Germans Formerly Controlled in Czar's Domain.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The Wilson Administration is preparing to take tentative steps looking to the renewal of commercial treaties with Russia without attempting to settle the Jewish passport issue, which was the cause of the abrogation of the old treaty.

Upon broad hints from Russia that a large trade treaty enjoyed by Germany may now be had by the United States if proper measures are adopted officials of the State and Commerce departments have prepared memoranda which it is hoped will afford a basis for a new commercial treaty, leaving for a future time the settlement of the passport question.

Russia has for some time been willing to make a new commercial treaty, but the unwillingness of the United States to negotiate such a convention without including in it the vexatious passport question has made it impossible to enter upon even tentative negotiations. It is therefore that the United States accept no new treaty that did not guarantee to Jews specifically the right to the full privileges supposedly accompanying an American passport. This Russia is unwilling even to discuss.

Whether the political situation in this country has changed sufficiently to make practically possible the proposal of a new treaty is a matter of some doubt. It is, however, considered the present moment an unusual opportunity for facilitating an expansion of American trade with Russia, particularly in view of the extremely favorable disposition of that country.

The likelihood, though, is that American Jews who were interested in bringing about the abrogation of the original treaty would regard their victory as a barren one if a new convention were drafted ignoring the passport issue.

It is, however, considered the present moment an unusual opportunity for facilitating an expansion of American trade with Russia, particularly in view of the extremely favorable disposition of that country.

There appears to be a disposition on the part of Russia to transfer to the United States a large part of the trade hitherto enjoyed by Germany. It was recalled today that during the Russo-Japanese war Germany had secured a large position on the Lorette Heights near Arras, are holding the French in Champagne and are pushing back the Russians in northern Poland.

A despatch from Italy says that the Austrian Embassy is sending to Vienna confidential archives which would not be safe in Rome if Italy and Austria went to war. The situation is becoming graver. It is believed the German-Italian negotiations are on the point of failure.

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## RUSSIAN PROGRESS IN NORTH POLAND

German Corps Believed to Have Been Sent to Aid Armies in West.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, March 17.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs that evidence is accumulating to show that Field Marshal von Hindenburg ordered the most recent advance of the Germans on Przemyśl in too great haste and before he knew the strength of the forces he had to meet.

His first forward movement on March 12 was clearly made under a misapprehension. The Germans, suddenly checked after half a day's march, fell back nearly three miles. Having been strongly reinforced, they tried to recover this lost ground on the following day, but failed utterly, as they did on March 14, the Russians pushing them back on their whole front.

This offensive action of the Russians was so unexpected, the correspondent continues, "that the enemy did not have time to place his heavy artillery in position and was obliged to throw his line into all his available units."

"Our capture of the villages of Jedynow and Steina was most important," the correspondent adds, "and it is still a very stiff fight, which was renewed over and over again. The villages remained in our hands, however, with several guns which the enemy was unable to get away. It should be noted that all this took place only seven miles from the village of Chorzow, which was the starting place of the Russian advance."

The news from the Galician front indicates that the storming of Przemyśl has been begun in earnest. The fall of the city, however, has not yet been decided. The Russian troops, though still in the field, are now men at arms, and are still increasing in numbers every day. As soon as the only hostile stronghold north of the Carpathians has had its teeth drawn the Russian army in this region can concentrate its whole energy upon the advance into Hungary.

"What the Russians are doing now is to drive the enemy's field army from all fortified positions in the region, and to surround the city of Przemyśl, which is most valuable, as it commands the interior of the fortress."

LONDON, March 17.—The Budapest correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing yesterday, says: "There was a general engagement on the whole front in Bukovina last night. The big Russian army, with much damage and the inhabitants fled from the villages. The Russians are attacking with such fury that further resistance is impossible. The Austrians and their retreat is imminent."

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## GERMANS ADVANCE ON LORETTE HEIGHTS

Berlin Reports Capture of Eminence on Southern Slope, Near Arras.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

BERLIN, via wireless to London, March 17.—The Germans report the capture of an eminence on the slope of Lorette Heights and other advances in the following announcement, issued today:

The contest for the possession of an eminence on the southern slope of the Lorette Heights, to the north-west of Arras, has been decided in favor of the Germans.

In the Champagne district, specifically to the west of Bethune and to the north of Le Mesnil, the French yesterday delivered several unsuccessful attacks. North of Le Mesnil the attacks were renewed with stronger forces, and the engagements still continue.

In the Argonne the fighting has not yet come to an end. French forces have been driven back from the slope to the southwest of Vauquois, occupied by them. Two French attacks in the Le Prieux forest, northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, resulted in failure. In the Vosges there has been nothing more than artillery duels.

The Russian advances against Tauragien, in Kovno Province, Lithuania, northeast of Tilsit, and Laugisz, in East Prussia, just across the border from Tauragien, have been repulsed. Russian attempts to break through the German lines between the Sawa and the Orzye have also failed. Warsaw, also, has been quiet.

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## FLEET CLEARS STRAITS OF MINES FOR 12 MILES

Mine Sweepers in Dardanelles Are Praised for Work Which Has Cost Heavily—Bombardment of Forts Continues and Torpedo Stations Are Destroyed.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, March 17.—A despatch from Rome says that a wireless message from Rhodes announces that the Anglo-French fleet has swept the Dardanelles entirely clear of mines for a distance of twelve miles from the entrance. The warships are now bombarding Chanak, on the Asiatic side, and a landing party has cut the cable between that town and the fortress of Kilit Bahr on the European side. The same party also destroyed the torpedo stations on the narrow.

The Admiralty issued to-night a list of casualties incurred in the Dardanelles operations on March 13. The names of 25 killed and 40 wounded are given. Nearly all are from the cruiser Amethyst, and the remainder from the Prince George and the Trauers.

The Admiralty announced earlier in the day that it had no news of the reported dash of the Amethyst into the strait and the killing of a number of men on that vessel by the Turkish fire, which nearly sent the cruiser to the bottom. The publication of the casualty list is held to confirm the reports from Athens that the Amethyst had been badly damaged.

A correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing from the island of Tenedos under date of March 16, says:

"The gate of the Dardanelles is open, but the corridor into which it leads is still strongly held by the enemy."

The present operations are the fourth of a series of phases arranged and foreseen by the two Admiralties. The first phase was the demolition of the forts and batteries at the entrance to the strait. The second was the clearing of the strait of mines on the first night of the campaign. Both these are completed. The third phase was the bombardment of Port Chanak by high angle fire from the Queen Elizabeth, over the Gallipoli peninsula while another British ship inside the strait, observed and signalled the effect of the fire, protected by a French ship which made circles around her and fired at the Turkish batteries.

The fourth phase has now been entered. It consists of the sweeping of the mines barring the approach to Port Chanak. Then will come the bombardment of the forts on both sides of the channel near Chanak. When these are demolished, and it may be expected that the action against them will begin shortly, the remaining forts of the Serraglio will be the last to fall.

The whole fleet is particularly appreciative of the work of the mine sweepers, both French and English, which without armor or protection of any kind are working constantly under the enemy's fire. Impeded by their own drugs and by a strong contrary current, they move slowly and are an excellent target for the enemy's guns.

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## MURAD THE TURKISH CIGARETTE

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